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speedily checked. But it were to be wished, if possible, that a large proportion of those who undertake to give, would be content to receive, instruction and edification through the press. The Creator has adjusted productive talent and receptivity in every department, in proportions which cannot be deranged without injury. In the fine arts, the ratio of those who can minister to the general delight to those who can appreciate and enjoy the fruits of their genius, is small. We believe that this is the case as regards literary capacity also. Authorship is a special gift, — an office to which not every cultivated man and woman is called; and it will be a token of progress in the future, if we shall be able to count fewer writers, with constantly growing numbers of patient, assiduous, and discriminating readers.

ART. VIII. — *View of the State of Europe during the Middle Ages.* By HENRY HALLAM, LL. D., F. R. A. S., Foreign Associate of the Institute of France. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee, & Co. 1861. 3 vols. Small 8vo. pp. xiv. and 484, 404, 488.

THE recent appearance of these volumes — the first instalment of a new and elegant edition of Mr. Hallam's Works — affords a fit occasion for presenting some remarks on his character as an historian, and for re-examining his separate books with reference to their intrinsic merits and to their relative place in English literature. Of the personal history of this eminent man comparatively little is known even by the best-informed readers. It is not necessary, however, for the proper execution of our purpose at this time, to retrace the outlines of his life, or to attempt any estimate of his character as it was exhibited either at home or in society. Few persons ever projected less of their own individuality into their writings; and little or no light would be thrown on our subject by a narrative of events whose influence was scarcely felt beyond the domestic circle. In Mr. Hallam we see a man of a singularly

cool temperament dealing with the vexed questions of history and criticism without anything of personal or party bias ; and his works are to be considered as almost purely intellectual productions. Reserving, therefore, a sketch of his personal history for another opportunity, we design now to confine ourselves to an examination of his historical writings, irrespective of his life and character.

The first work which brought him prominently before the public was his "View of the State of Europe during the Middle Ages," published in 1818. Nearly twenty-five years had then elapsed since the death of Gibbon, the last of the three illustrious historians, who, in the latter half of the preceding century, had enriched English literature by their writings, and secured for themselves a place among the most distinguished authors of any age or nation. This interval had teemed with works of great ability in several departments of elegant letters ; but it had produced few historical compositions of permanent interest and worth. During this period the revival of English poetry had occurred, and most of the poems of Byron, Shelley, Coleridge, and Wordsworth had been written ; a few young men, accidentally brought together in the Scottish capital, had started the *Edinburgh Review*, and its establishment had been followed by a remarkable change in the general character of periodical criticism, which at once became more elevated and more searching ; Sir Walter Scott had published the first of the *Waverley Novels*, and had shown what are the capabilities of the historical romance ; and physical and intellectual science had been diligently cultivated by men whose names are as familiar as household words. But historical literature had not shared in this progress ; and although during this interval the poet Southey had composed an elaborate "History of Brazil," and Turner, Coxe, Roscoe, Malcolm Laing, and other writers, had sought to illustrate various portions of British and Continental history, the great historians of the last century had left no successors worthy to wear their mantles.

It was under these circumstances that Mr. Hallam gave to the world the first acknowledged fruits of his historical studies, and at once acquired a reputation of the first order. He was

then forty years of age, and in the full maturity of all his intellectual powers. His qualifications for the task which he had assumed were peculiar. He had been educated as a lawyer ; and his legal studies had given him the skill in sifting testimony, and had fostered the habits of clearness and precision in statement, which are of the first importance to an historian. At the same time, he had never presented himself as an advocate at the bar, and he had not acquired the narrowness of view and the disposition to distort facts to which an ambition for forensic success has sometimes been thought to lead. He had not, indeed, enjoyed the advantage of sitting in Parliament, to which Gibbon ascribed so beneficial an effect in qualifying any one to become an historian, but he was familiar with the minutest details of Parliamentary history, as well as with the whole course of social and political progress in England. Nor was his knowledge confined to these subjects alone. His acquaintance with the classical writers of antiquity, with the mediæval authors, and with the languages and literatures of the principal nations on the Continent, was scarcely less exact and comprehensive. His memory was tenacious ; and the facts which he had amassed had been carefully digested, and were always ready at command. His views as to the province of history were more enlarged than those of his immediate predecessors ; and he had a deeper sense of the duties and responsibilities of an historian. “ The philosophy of history,” he said in his first work, “ embraces far more than the wars and treaties, the factions and cabals of common political narration ; it extends to whatever illustrates the character of the human species in a particular period,—to their reasonings and sentiments, their arts and industry.” His principles were liberal, and were the result of intelligent conviction, rather than of education. His researches had been thorough, and sometimes exhaustive ; and his historical theories had been long and carefully weighed. In society he has been described as disputatious, but a taste for controversy is not one of the characteristic features of his writings.

Such a man was not likely to base his conclusions on insufficient premises, or to be hasty in publishing his opinions ; and no important change in his method of dealing with historical

or literary questions occurred between his earliest and his latest works. What he was at the outset of his literary career, he was through its whole course ; and the same moral and intellectual qualities were exhibited in the "View of the Middle Ages," which were shown in the "Introduction to the Literature of Europe," published more than twenty years afterward. In each work we find abundant evidence of vast and various erudition, as well as of candor and impartiality,—of sober judgment, as well as of intellectual acuteness.

In the breadth and accuracy of his knowledge, indeed, which must always be regarded as the most important qualification of an historian, Mr. Hallam is scarcely surpassed by Gibbon, while in this respect he is much superior to Hume and Robertson. His text offers to us only the ripened fruits of a thoroughly cultivated mind ; and his notes are immense store-houses of curious and minute learning, often drawn from recondite sources, and indicating a range of previous reading seldom attempted in England, except by some laborious drudge. "I have quoted to my recollection," he says in the Preface to his latest work, and we suppose the remark is not less true of his other books, "no passage which I have not seen in its own place ; though I may possibly have transcribed in some instances, for the sake of convenience, from a secondary authority." The plan of each of his works included the discussion of a great variety of topics, and though he is much better informed as to some of them than he is as to others, there are very few which he has not investigated with conscientious fidelity, or on which he has not shed much light. It is true, that some parts of his "View of the Middle Ages" have been pronounced superficial ; but this is the judgment of those writers alone who were disappointed or aggrieved that greater prominence is not assigned to the topics in which they were most interested. Indeed, the extent of his researches and the copiousness of his information on these very topics have been frequently attested by writers who had made them a specialty ; and since Mr. Hallam's death, a distinguished mathematician, Mr. De Morgan, has publicly borne witness to the fulness and accuracy of his history of mathematical studies during the Middle Age,—one of the subjects as to which it

has sometimes been alleged that his knowledge was insufficient. On this point no higher authority could be cited ; nor could a more explicit declaration be desired. " Were I to write the History of Mathematics," says Mr. De Morgan, in a letter to the London Athenæum, " I should certainly look on Hallam as one of the writers of authoritative opinion whom I should be glad to cite in my favor, and bound to oppose with reason when I differed from him."

This thorough and accurate acquaintance with every fact relating to the subject before him is, perhaps, the most noteworthy element in Mr. Hallam's character as an historian, though the greatest prominence is not usually assigned to it in speaking of his works. Without it he could not have secured the place among English historians which he has long maintained by universal consent ; for his writings exhibit few graces of style when compared with the productions of other historians of the same rank. In this respect there can scarcely be a greater contrast than that which exists between Mr. Hallam's books and Hume's " History of England." The latter work is marked by a notorious carelessness and by frequent misrepresentations ; but it has secured a permanent place in English literature by its simple beauty of style, scarcely less than by its happy blending of general observations and philosophical reflections with the narrative. In reading Mr. Hallam's works, on the other hand, we feel entire confidence that we are under the guidance of a writer whose knowledge of his subject is ample, and who bases his statements on a personal examination of the authorities cited, while we constantly miss the transparent simplicity of Hume's unambitious style. This amplitude of knowledge, however, would be insufficient, and indeed worthless, if it were not accompanied by equal acuteness in determining the real worth of any authority, and in deciding between conflicting accounts of the same transaction ; and this quality Mr. Hallam also possesses in large measure. Though he had a firm belief in the truths of religion, his mind was naturally sceptical ; and he brought to the examination of all historical questions a disposition to investigate them thoroughly for himself, and a determination to take as little as possible on trust. His discussion of them shows the effect of

his legal training, and is uniformly marked by great logical skill. Many of his notes afford striking illustrations of his acuteness in detecting mistakes and misrepresentations, and in settling disputed points. At the same time his mind was not by nature analytical; and while he was acute in investigating facts, his literary criticisms, though for the most part judicious, often fail to lay bare the heart of the subject. Of this defect he seems to have been fully aware; and in the Preface to his "Introduction to the Literature of Europe," he expressly says, that he does not wish the work "to be considered as a book of reference on particular topics, in which point of view it must often appear to disadvantage," — adding, that, "if it proves of any value, it will be as an entire and synoptical work." In one word, Mr. Hallam is to be regarded as a philosophical historian, rather than as a philosophical critic.

Closely connected with these fundamental qualities of knowledge and discrimination is a third characteristic not less obvious in any analysis of Mr. Hallam's character, — his extreme caution. We have already referred to his disinclination to quote anything at second hand, and to state any fact without reference to the original sources of information. But his caution is even more apparent when it becomes necessary for him to express an opinion on any doubtful point. Numerous illustrations of this characteristic will occur to every one who is familiar with his writings. They are found in all his works; but we are inclined to think they are most numerous in the eighth chapter of his "View of the Middle Ages," which treats of the early Constitutional History of England. Thus, in speaking of the origin of county representation in Parliament, he says: "Since there is no sufficient proof whereon to decide, we can only say with hesitation, that there *may* have been an instance of county representation in the fifteenth year of John." Such passages show at once the cautiousness and the candor of a writer, and are among the most convincing proofs that he is entitled to confidence when his language assumes a more positive tone.

Passing now from these qualities, which are exhibited in an equal degree perhaps by many other historians, we have to consider another class of moral and intellectual traits in

respect to which Mr. Hallam has fewer rivals, and no superior. Of these the most conspicuous is his impartiality; and here his pre-eminence is at present undisputed. "On a general survey," says Lord Macaulay, "we do not scruple to pronounce the Constitutional History the most impartial book that we ever read." This strong commendation is almost equally applicable to his other works, and has been sanctioned by the concurrent testimony of nearly an entire generation of readers, though at the time of its publication the book referred to was fiercely attacked by some of the party journals. With the blindness of partisan malice, they denied that Mr. Hallam possessed even this merit; and one writer, Mr. Southey, went so far as to assert, that the author "carried into the history of the past, not merely the maxims of his own age, as infallible laws by which all former actions are to be tried, but the spirit and the feeling of the party to which he has attached himself, its acrimony and its arrogance, its injustice and its ill-temper." But this grave charge is utterly unfounded. There is not a page in either of Mr. Hallam's works which is acrimonious, arrogant, or ill-tempered; and few writers have endeavored more sedulously, or more successfully, to avoid even the appearance of injustice. His path often lies across the battle-fields on which rival biographers, historians, and critics have contended with characteristic bitterness; but he never suffers himself to be drawn aside by either faction, or to become the advocate and apologist of any party. Yet he never exhibits that weak and timeserving spirit which regards with an indifferent eye virtue and vice, liberality and bigotry, the cause of popular rights and the cause of irresponsible power. "Tyranny, indeed, and injustice," he says, "will by all historians, not absolutely servile, be noted with moral reprobation"; and it is in the spirit of this declaration that all his writings are composed.

Mr. Hallam's impartiality does not proceed, therefore, from indifference as to the topics which he discusses, but from the moderation of his views, and the calmness of his judgment. Extreme opinions find little favor in his eyes. He was a Whig; but he was a Whig educated at Oxford, and this circumstance doubtless exerted a very fortunate influence on the

character of his writings. Even when he expresses the strongest disapprobation of any system of policy, or pronounces the most unfavorable opinion as to the character of any individual, or any body of men, he never suffers himself to lapse into partisanship, and his language has the calmness and dignity of a judicial opinion. Unlike Mr. Carlyle, he never attempts to make a man odious by personal abuse, and in his delineation of character he uses other colors beside black and white. It is this moderation in his views—this inflexible determination to follow the narrow path between the mountain and the sea—which, as we conceive, constitutes Mr. Hallam's least questionable title to a place among the greatest historians who have written in our language. It is very easy to be a partisan: it is very hard to hold moderate opinions.

Akin to this important element in the character of a great historian, is a modesty unfortunately as rare as it is praiseworthy. Though Mr. Hallam's information on nearly every topic is so copious, his whole tone is singularly free from pedantry and dogmatism; and, as we have already intimated, his language is never positive unless he is perfectly sure of his ground. He does not disparage other writers; nor does he boast of his own labors. He makes no pretension to a knowledge which he does not possess, and if he has occasion to cite any authority which he has not personally examined, or to refer to any fact beyond his personal observation, he never fails to mention the circumstance. Thus, when speaking of the controversy respecting the authorship of the treatise *De Imitatione Christi*, he commences an elaborate note with the declaration, "I am not prepared to state the external evidence upon this keenly debated question with sufficient precision." In quoting some observations of Mr. Panizzi on Pulci's *Morgante Maggiore*, he introduces them with the modest confession, "The following remarks on Pulci's style come from a more competent judge than myself." Of Lord Stuart of Rothesay's collection of ancient Portuguese songs, he says: "I have been favored by my noble friend the editor with the loan of a copy, though my ignorance of the language prevented me from forming an exact judgment of its contents." At the same time, it is certain from other passages that he had a

sufficient knowledge of Portuguese to read portions of this very book with some degree of ease. Many other passages of a similar character might be cited in illustration of this honorable trait; but it is needless to multiply instances of the direct manifestation of a quality which underlies all of Mr. Hallam's writings.

Only one other prominent characteristic of his works remains to be noticed. We mean their clearness of statement. On every subject which Mr. Hallam examines, either cursorily or at length, his views are free from obscurity, and are stated with precision. His materials are judiciously arranged, according to a definite and well-considered plan; his narrative is luminous; and his judgments are expressed in no ambiguous terms. In his own mind he had a clear view of his subject under all its relations; and therefore he had no difficulty in conveying a clear view of it to other minds. Occasionally, indeed, he presupposes in his readers a degree of familiarity with his subject which many of them perhaps do not possess, especially in his first two works; and in his "Introduction to the Literature of Europe" his plan is faulty in not combining in a single view all that is said of each writer under different heads. With the qualification implied in this remark, his writings cannot be justly charged with obscurity of thought or ambiguity of expression; and these defects, if they are to be regarded as such, do not affect the substantial excellence of his works. In distinctness of purpose and general clearness of statement, his books leave little to be desired.

If these observations on Mr. Hallam's character as an historian are well founded, he may be briefly described as learned, acute, and cautious, candid in the discussion of controverted questions, sober in judgment, moderate in his opinions, modest in the estimate of his own labors and the expression of his own views, and luminous in statement. To combine these various qualities in one consistent and balanced character, it was only necessary that he should have a firm grasp of his subject; and this additional merit will be readily conceded to him. However various may be the topics which he has to discuss, and into whatever paths his inquiries may lead, he is always the master of his subject, and holds it steadily in view.

His philosophy of history, too, is sound and comprehensive. He recognizes a general progress of the human mind; but it is not a uniform progress, and occasionally yields to a retrograde movement. "The trite metaphors of light and darkness, of dawn and twilight," he says, "are used carelessly by those who touch on the literature of the Middle Ages, and suggest by analogy an uninterrupted progression, in which learning, like the sun, has dissipated the shadows of barbarism. But with closer attention, it is easily seen that this is not a correct representation; that, taking Europe generally, far from being in a more advanced stage of learning at the beginning of the fifteenth century than two hundred years before, she had in many respects gone backwards, and gave little sign of any tendency to recover her ground. There is, in fact, no security, as far as the past history of mankind assures us, that any nation will be uniformly progressive in science, arts, or letters; nor do I perceive, whatever may be the current language, that we can expect this with much greater confidence of the whole civilized world." Nor does he regard great men—the leaders in the world's progress, the poets, statesmen, or philosophers of any age—as merely fulfilling an apparent law of demand and supply. "There is only one cause," he says, "for the want of great men in any period;—nature does not think fit to produce them. They are no creatures of education and circumstance." The underlying principles on which his works are composed present, indeed, a strong contrast to the materialistic philosophy according to which Mr. Buckle proposes to write "The History of Civilization in England." Mr. Hallam does not confound the ineradicable distinctions of race; nor does he find the cause of a peculiar civilization in the adventitious circumstances of climate, food, soil, and the general aspects of nature, or trace the growth of poetry to the prevalence of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Such superficial views find no place in his works, which are conceived in a very different spirit, and wrought from very different materials, from those on which Mr. Buckle bases his conclusions.

Mr. Hallam's style, considered merely as such, presents few salient features to provoke adverse criticism, or to invite com-

mentation ; and it may be described in general terms as concise, nervous, and unaffected. If it seldom rises into sustained eloquence, it seldom falls below the level of the subject, and is always free from the admixture of foreign idioms. It is less stately and sonorous than Gibbon's, less simple and lucid than Hume's, less graceful and flowing than Robertson's, and it exhibits none of the rapid movement and breadth of illustration which characterize the immortal work of Lord Macaulay. It is not so good as Prescott's and Irving's, but it is incomparably better than Bancroft's. In this respect, however, it is not easy, nor perhaps quite just, to compare Mr. Hallam's works with histories composed on an entirely different plan. Laws, institutions, and customs are the topics of which he treats ; and these do not require or permit so much variety of expression and briskness of movement as we demand in compositions more strictly narrative in form, and into which the details of battles and sieges and the pomp and ceremony of courts may enter. All that we can justly require is clearness and exactness of statement, and ease and simplicity of diction, changing only with the varying interest of the topics discussed. That Mr. Hallam's works contain few passages of genuine eloquence, and that his imagery is often tawdry and commonplace, must be ascribed to the poverty of his imagination, as compared with the affluence of his mind in other respects. His strength lay in his ability to deal with abstract questions, and to trace the relations of cause and effect along the course of events, rather than in the faculty of reproducing to his own mind the common life of a past age ; and this defect is reflected even in his style, which is seldom or never picturesque.

In passing from this general survey of Mr. Hallam's works to an examination of them in detail, little need be added to what has been said already ; and any discussion of the manner in which he has treated particular topics would be foreign to our purpose. By many persons his first book is regarded as his greatest production. If not strictly original in its plan, it was much superior to any previous publication of its kind in our language, and the labors of no subsequent writer have diminished its value as a masterly account of the social and

political condition of Europe from the invasion of France by Clovis, in 486, to the expedition of Charles VIII. against Naples, in 1494. Indeed, the only sketch of this period which can be compared with it is the preliminary dissertation in Robertson's "History of the Reign of Charles V.;" but notwithstanding Mr. Hallam's great inferiority to Robertson in the command of a fluent and graceful style, his "View" is in every other respect a much more satisfactory production. It is more profound, more exact, more comprehensive in plan, and more copious in illustration. Its object, as he remarks in his Preface, is "to exhibit, in a series of historical dissertations, a comprehensive survey of the chief circumstances that can interest a philosophical inquirer during the period usually denominated the Middle Ages." The work is accordingly divided into nine chapters, treating severally of the history of France, of the origin and decline of the Feudal System, of the history of Italy, Spain, Germany, the Greeks and Saracens, and Ecclesiastical Power in the Middle Ages, of the Constitutional History of England, and of the State of Society. To this distribution of topics no valid objection can be taken. It presents, under a judicious arrangement, and with but little repetition, all the facts that are necessary for the proper execution of Mr. Hallam's design, together with a sketch of the history of each of the principal kingdoms which had existed during this period. From the comprehensiveness of his plan, some omissions occur, but they are of comparatively little importance; and whether we consider the work as a whole, or examine its separate parts, it must be regarded as a splendid monument of the author's various learning, his unwearied industry, and his humane and liberal principles. It is a striking proof of the conscientiousness with which his researches were conducted, and of his devotion to the cause of historical truth, that thirty years after this work was published Mr. Hallam returned to the subject, and gave to a new generation of readers a supplementary volume of notes and illustrations, which have been carefully embodied in the subsequent editions.

Mr. Hallam's next work was to some extent a continuation of his first, though its plan was far more limited, and embraced only one of the topics which had formerly engaged his atten-

tion. In the eighth chapter of his "View of the Middle Ages," he had traced the Constitutional History of England through the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods to the accession of Henry VII., and had shown the gradual rise of free institutions and the dawn of English liberty. At this point, which is only a few years earlier than the event selected by Mr. Hallam as marking the close of the Middle Age, he resumes the discussion and carries it forward to the accession of George III. This period of nearly four centuries is the most momentous in English history, and includes a series of events and transactions without a parallel in the history of any other age or nation. In tracing its history Mr. Hallam has occasion to deal with nearly all the great questions about which Whigs and Tories had contended for the last two centuries, and to clear the ground from the abundant misrepresentations of Hume and other partisan writers. When he wrote, party spirit raged with a fury but little abated by the lapse of time, and on few or none of the fundamental questions relating to the theory of the Constitution was there even a substantial agreement among historical critics. Yet Mr. Hallam never allows himself to swerve from the line of a rigid impartiality, and he treats every topic with equal candor. It is this quality, always rare among English historians when speaking of the political changes and revolutions in their own country, which forms the crowning merit of "The Constitutional History of England." Other historians have shown equal or even greater familiarity with the course of events, and an equally vigorous understanding; but no one else has exhibited such entire freedom from prejudice and such well-considered moderation in his opinions.

Ten years after the publication of this History, and when he was in his sixtieth year, Mr. Hallam published the first volume of his third and last work, to which he gave the modest title of "Introduction to the Literature of Europe in the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Centuries." Like the preceding work it was suggested by his early studies, and the first three chapters were designed partly as an expansion and partly as a correction of the statements in the ninth chapter of the "View of the Middle Ages." Its design included notices of nearly

every distinguished writer in the cultivated nations of modern Europe ; but it was impossible within the limits which he had assigned to himself to treat any subject much in detail, or to present any exhaustive criticisms. Hence, there is an inequality of execution in the different parts of the work ; and not unfrequently the real grounds on which an author's position depends are missed. It would be obviously unfair to Mr. Hallam to compare so compendious a survey of the literatures of many nations with those works which treat of the literature of a single people only. But if we bear in mind the precise objects which he had in view, and consider his work as a whole, rather than in its several parts, its great excellence will be generally admitted by competent critics. It worthily closed Mr. Hallam's labors as an historian and critic, and gave roundness and completeness to the series of his writings. Twenty-one years afterward he breathed his last.

His position in English literature was settled beyond the probability of change even before his death ; and no historian is held at the present time in more honorable estimation. On many points his authority is undisputed ; and on all, his opinions have much weight. His influence, both direct and indirect, has been very widely and deeply felt ; and few of his judgments have been overruled, or seem likely to be affected by more extensive researches, or by the discovery of new sources of information. This is especially true of his opinions on the controverted questions of English history, in the discussion of which his best characteristics as an historian are very clearly exhibited. No one now entertains the views on these topics which were very generally received before the " Constitutional History " was published ; and the change in the common judgment concerning them may be ascribed in no small degree to Mr. Hallam's labors. A new spirit was breathed into this important study ; more accurate researches have been made ; and a more liberal and candid tone has been adopted. A more searching analysis has been applied to the examination of the primary sources of information ; and a more profound philosophy has traced the connection of events and exhibited their mutual dependence. For the whole period covered by this great work, Mr. Hallam is an eminently trust-

worthy guide ; and the same remark will apply to his " View of the Middle Ages." His " Introduction to the Literature of Europe " has undoubtedly exerted much less influence than his other works, though few books are more frequently cited by writers on literary history, or can be read with greater advantage by all who are interested in tracing the intellectual progress of Europe.

ART. IX. — *Essays and Reviews*. [Contents : *The Education of the World*. By FREDERICK TEMPLE, D. D., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, Head-Master of Rugby School. *Bunsen's Biblical Researches*. By ROWLAND WILLIAMS, D. D., Vice-Principal and Professor of Hebrew, St. David's College, Lampeter, Vicar of Broad Chalke, Wilts. *On the Study of the Evidences of Christianity*. By BADEN POWELL, M. A., F. R. S., Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford. *Séances Historiques de Genève*. *The National Church*. By HENRY BRISTOW WILSON, B. D., Vicar of Great Staughton, Hunts. *On the Mosaic Cosmogony*. By C. W. GOODWIN, M. A. *Tendencies of Religious Thought in England, 1688–1750*. By MARK PATTISON, B. D. *On the Interpretation of Scripture*. By BENJAMIN JOWETT, M. A., Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford.] The Second Edition. London : John W. Parker and Son, West Strand. 1860. 8vo., pp. 433.

THE publication of this volume is a strange and even a startling event. But it is strange and startling not so much from the nature of its contents, as from the character and position of its authors. Certainly there is nothing new or deserving of especial notice, either in a studied attack upon the authority and truthfulness of large portions of the Bible, or in a scornful depreciation of the evidences and a denial of many of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, or in a bold and dogmatic assertion that any supernatural event whatever, and therefore any special and immediate revelation of